foreign countries;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the estimated cost of technology to be imported during the next two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The number of foreign collaborations involving import of technology, services and others approved by the Government during the years 1995 and 1996 are 2337 and 2303 respectively. The foreign collaborations are from 81 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, UK, USA & others.

(b) Lumpsum payments approved in respect of these collaborations are of the order of Rs. 7200 crores during 1995 and Rs. 2500 crores during 1996. In addition, there are payments by the companies towards items like royalty based on production value, training expenditure etc.

(c) The estimated cost of technology to be imported during next two years has not been assessed.

Construction of Car Shed at Asansol

254. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of proposed car-shed for maintenance of EMU rakes at Asansol has been started;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction works started during Feb. 1996. The work content basically comprises of :-

(i) Civil Engg. work consisting of buildings, pits and covered shed, etc.

(ii) Provision of OHE.

(iii) Procurement of M&P items, etc.

(c) The work is likely to be completed after three years subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Secondary Switching Area Facility

255. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Secondary Switching Area Facility is provided to a district having 10,000 telephone connections;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh of the facility;

(c) whether the post of district Manager is lying vacant for a long time at the said place;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said post is likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no post of District Manager in Firozabad.

[English]

Cases of SAIL referred to CBI

256. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any matter pertaining to this Ministry related to Steel Authority of India Limited involving purchase, sales and export had been referred to CBI recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel have not referred any matter relating to SAIL involving purchase, sales and export, to the CBI recently.

Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Lalgola

257. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any